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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Summer is a time for fun and relaxation...and a great opportunity to read! According to research, students who read during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills. However, students who do not read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skill.

We encourage students entering the **7th grade** to continue improving their reading skills by reading as much as possible over the summer months. All Millville seventh-grade students **are required to read one book** from the attached list. Many of these books are available from the Millville Public Library or may be purchased online or at a bookstore. Each student will be **evaluated** on the book he/she chooses for summer reading by orally presenting a book talk to his/her language arts class, without reading from the attached assignment page.

Assignments must be submitted to the language arts teacher no later than **Friday, September 11, 2015**. The **assignment** and **oral presentation** will be scored and will count as the **first two (2) language arts grades** for the first marking period. The assignment will count as one homework grade and the oral presentation will count as the first test grade. Please be aware that test grades count as 40% of the language arts grade.

It is through practice that both the skills and love of reading will grow. At Millville Public Schools, readers are leaders!

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Margarita S. Colina

K-12 Language Arts Supervisor
Millville Public Schools

Summer Reading List 2015 – for Students entering 7th Grade

Historical Fiction

Soldier's Heart – A Novel of the Civil War -- *by Gary Paulsen*

Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Fallen Angels – *by Walter Dean Myers*

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Chains -- *by Laurie Halse Anderson*

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

A Year Down Yonder – *by Richard Peck*

During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

A Long Way to Chicago – *by Richard Peck*

What happens when Joey and his sister, Mary Alice -- two city slickers from Chicago -- make their annual summer visits to their larger than life Grandma Dowdel's in the seemingly sleepy Illinois town? August 1929.

The Teacher's Funeral – A comedy in three parts – *by Richard Peck*

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

Al Capone Does My Shirts – *by Gennifer Choldenko*

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Mystery

Nightmarys -- *by Dan Poblocki*

Seventh-grader Timothy July and his new friend Abigail try to break a curse that is causing them and others to be tormented by their greatest fears brought to life.

Closed for the Season – *by Mary Downing Hahn*

When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.

The Graveyard Book – *by Neil Gaiman*

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures

Adventure

Ghost Canoe – *by Will Hobbs*

Fourteen-year-old Nathan, fishing with the Makah in the Pacific Northwest, finds himself holding a vital clue when a mysterious stranger comes to town looking for Spanish treasure.

Jack's Run – *by Roland Smith*

Kidnapped by drug czar Alonzo Asnar and held hostage in Argentina, Jack and his sister Joanne attempt a daring escape while their parents, aided by some old friends, set out to rescue them.

Peak – *by Roland Smith*

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Realistic Fiction

Hoops – *by Walter Dean Myers*

A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

Flipped – *by Wendelin Van Draanen*

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Lost and Found – *by Anne Schraff*

Darcey Willis does not know where to turn for help when a series of frightening incidents culminate with the disappearance of her sister Jamee.

Science Fiction

Found – *by Margaret Peterson Haddix*

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Non-Fiction

World War II – Fighting for Freedom 1939-1945 - *by Peter Chrisp*

The story of the conflict that changed the world.

Examines the impact World War II had on people around the world, highlighting the technological, medical, and military changes that resulted from the war and describing various aspects of life during the conflict.

You Can't Scare Me! A guide to the Strange and Supernatural – Scholastic, Inc.

Presents real-life case studies, images, and facts about a wide range of topics related to the supernatural.

My Life in Dog Years – by Gary Paulsen

The author describes how dogs have impacted his life from childhood through the present day, recounting the stories of his first dog, Snowball, in the Philippines; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life.

24/7 Science Behind the Scenes Medical Files -- Scholastic

Any book in the series.

The Story of My Life ---- Helen Keller

An autobiography of Helen Keller, written while she was a young woman, in which she tells of her early life, her relationship with her teacher Anne Sullivan, and her struggles to triumph over blindness and deafness.

Life in Prison ---- by Stanley "Tookie" Williams

Stanley "Tookie" Williams, cofounder of the notorious Crips gang, is a death-row inmate. But in his two decades of incarceration, Williams has also become a respected author and activist whose dedication to ending gang warfare in the lives of inner-city children has earned him a 2001 Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

A Hole in My Life --- by Jack Gantos

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.